I. Introductory lectures on social studies and anthropology

II. Edwin Abbott: FLATLAND, Dover
This early science fiction novel describes the problems of understanding an alien society. Describe how Flatland is a system of domination and control yet also contains potentials for social disorder. Use some of the concepts indicated in the lectures.
(1,000 words due first Monday after last lecture on Abbott 10%)

Discuss the ways that anthropologists and historians try to make cannibalism understandable to us, Why do you think the custom disturbs us? Should it? What problems are posed in presenting such material to a reader?
(1,000 words due first Monday after last lecture on Goldman 10%)

IV. Timothy Burke: LIFEBOY MEN, LUX WOMEN, Duke U.
Discuss the ways that modernization, culture and commodity consumption are related as reflected in Burke and how this relates to capitalism.
(1,000 words due first Monday after last lecture on Burke 10%)

V. Barbara Myerhoff: NUMBER OUR DAYS, Simon and Schuster.
Barbara Myerhoff: NUMBER OUR DAYS (film).
Discuss the values and beliefs behind this group. How do they relate to gender, age and memory?
(1,000 words, due first Monday after last lecture on Myerhoff 10%)

Discuss the implications of group membership and conformity in Japanese society. How productive are such practices to Japanese life?
(1,500 words due first Monday after last lecture 20%)

VI. Paul Farmer: INFECTIONS AND INEQUALITIES, California.
Why should illness and death be considered culturally as well as scientifically when we deal with a health disaster? What problems does this pose in presenting such matters?
(1,500 words due day of final exam 20%)

Participation in recitation sections 20%

There will be no final examination.

All essays must be typed, double-spaced, with numbered pages and recitation instructor indicated. Late papers without formal excuses will be marked down. You may request a particular reader by indicating this at the top of your paper, though you may not request the same reader for all your papers. You must let each of the graders mark at least one of your papers.